

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-9 were pending prior to the Office Action. Claims 10-25 have been added through this reply. Therefore claims 25 are pending. Claims 1, 10, and 17 are independent.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification is objected to for including improper paragraph numbering. *See Office Action, item 3.* A Substitute Specification is submitted herewith to address this issue. No new matter is believed to have been added. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIM

Claim 4 stands objected to for informalities. *See Office Action, item 4.* Claim 4 has been amended as suggested to address the issue raised by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests the objection to claim 4 be withdrawn.

§ 102 REJECTION – KUMP

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kump et al. (U.S. Patent 4,736,374). *See Office Action, item 5.* Applicant respectfully traverses.

For a Section 102 rejection to be proper, the cited reference must teach or suggest each and every claimed element. *See M.P.E.P. 2131; M.P.E.P. 706.02*. Thus, if the cited reference fails to teach or suggest one or more elements, then the rejection is improper and must be withdrawn.

In this instance, Kump fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention. For example, independent claim 1 recites, in part, “each measuring instrument being respectively coupled to only one of at least one control computer.” Kump cannot be relied upon to teach or suggest at least this feature.

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleged that the microprocessors 4a-4d are equivalent to the multiple control computers and also alleged that the test instruments 18a-18e are equivalent to the measuring instruments as claimed. Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner’s characterization. However, for the sake of argument, Applicant proceeds based on the Examiner’s allegations.

Based on the Examiner’s stated alleged equivalents, to anticipate the feature of a measuring instrument being coupled with only one control computer, it must be that each of the testing equipment 18a-18e must be coupled to only one of the microprocessors 4a-4d.

However, as illustrated in Figure 1 of Kump, all microprocessors have access to each of the testing equipments 18a-18e. In other words, each testing equipment is coupled to all of the microprocessors. Thus, even proceeding under the Examiner’s allegations, Kump’s disclosure is contrary to the claimed feature.

Indeed, Kump specifies that allowing each testing equipment to be accessible by all microprocessors is an important feature. In this manner, any of the available microprocessors

maybe utilized to test any of the equipments. For example, Kump states “when an equipment under test, for instance 18a, is connected to interface 24, a signal is sent to main processor 2 ... at this stage, main processor 2 interrogates ... whatever number of microprocessors there are, in order to find a microprocessor which is idle and thus is available.” *See column 3, lines 6-14.* Kump goes to disclose that the particular microprocessor being used retrieves data and other sets of functional resource units such as memories 6a-6e, sample and hold devices 8a-8e, digital to analog converter 10a-10e, analog to digital converter 12a-12e, etc. *See column 3, lines 17-41.* Once the needed resources are acquired, the chosen microprocessor then proceeds to test the particular testing equipment.

The only way this can be accomplished is if each testing equipment can be available and accessed to all of the microprocessors, i.e. coupled to all microprocessors. Thus, Kump cannot be relied upon to teach or suggest the feature of a measuring equipment being coupled with only one control computer. Indeed, Kump actually teaches away from this feature. Therefore, independent claim 1 is distinguishable over Kump.

Claims 3, 4, 7, and 9 depend from independent claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons stated with respect to claim 1, these dependent claims are also distinguishable over Kump.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 7, and 9 based on Kump be withdrawn.

§ 103 REJECTION – KUMP, DEMKE

Claims 2, 5, 6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kump in view of Demke et al. (U.S. Patent 6,021,276). *See Office Action, item 6.*

Applicant respectfully traverses. It is noted that the rejected claims depend from independent claim 1, and claim 1 has been shown to be distinguishable over Kump. Demke has not been, and indeed cannot be, relied upon to correct for at least the above noted deficiencies of Kump. Therefore, independent claim 1 is distinguishable over the combination of Kump and Demke.

For at least due to the dependency thereon, claims 2, 5, 6, and 8 are also distinguishable over the combination of Kump and Demke. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 2, 5, 6, and 8 based on Kump and Demke be withdrawn.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 9-25 have been added through this reply. All new claims are to be distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in any combination. Applicants respectfully request that the new claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Hyung Sohn (Reg. No. 44,346), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

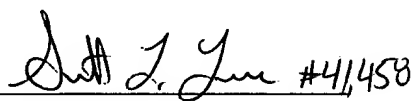
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Substitute Specification
Abstract